

UCSD alumni awards to be presented June 15

May 2, 1996

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Michael Greif, artistic director of the La Jolla Playhouse, is among four persons named by the University of California, San Diego, Alumni Association to receive an Award for Excellence during a June 15 Awards Gala at Geisel Library on the UCSD campus.

Other recipients and their awards are David Goeddel, biotech scientist, Outstanding Alumnus; Thomas O'Neil, UCSD physics professor, Distinguished Teaching, and Charlie Robins, member of the UC San Diego Foundation Board, Service to the University.

Greif, who currently is directing the 1996 Pulitzer Prize winning musical "Rent" on Broadway, will receive the Professional Achievement Award for his work in the theater. Artistic director of the La Jolla Playhouse since the 1995 season, he staged the critically-acclaimed "Therese Raquin," which won four Drama-Logue awards. He received his Master of Fine Arts from UCSD in 1985.

Goeddel, a leader in the biotech industry, was one of the first scientists hired by Genentech, a Bay Area firm prominent in the gene splicing field. He now is vice president of research for Tularik Inc. and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. A 1972 graduate of UCSD, he and his team produced Genentech's first five products, including the heart attack drug TPA. He was the first alumnus with an undergraduate degree from UCSD elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

O'Neil, a universally-respected member of the Physics Department, is considered one of the world's leading plasma physicists. Student evaluations rate him a superb teacher and inspiring mentor in the classroom. As vice chair for education in the department from 1988-92, he spearheaded a successful overhaul of the graduate and undergraduate course curriculum. O'Neil received his Ph.D. degree in physics from UCSD in 1965.

Robins was selected for the Service to the University Award because of his exemplary contributions as a member of the UC San Diego Foundation Board, the California Environmental Technology Center Advisory Board, the International Relations/Pacific Studies Graduate School's Export Access Advisory Board, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Executive Committee of the Centennial Fund. In 1991 he established the Robins Family Fund to underwrite innovative research at SIO.

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